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JAPAN

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1167

Woman's Work

in our

Japan Mission

1916

Woman's Board of Foreign Missions
Reformed Church in America
25 East Twenty-second Street, New York

Our Mission Stations in Japan.

MISSIONARIES

NORTH JAPAN MISSION

Miss Julia Moulton
Miss Jennie M. Kuyper } Ferris Seminary, 178 Bluff, Yokohama
Miss C. Janet Oltmans
Miss M. Leila Winn, Aomori.
Mrs. L. J. Shafer, Aomori.
Mrs. M. N. Wyckoff, Matsumoto.
Mrs. D. C. Ruigh
Mrs. Albert Oltmans } Tokyo.
Miss Evelyn Oltmans

SOUTH JAPAN MISSION

TOKYO

Miss Sara M. Couch, Nagasaki.
Miss Harriet M. Lansing, Kagoshima.
Miss Hendrine E. Hospers, Kagoshima.
Miss Jeane Noordhoff } Baiko Jo Gakuin, Shimonoseki.
Miss Jennie A. Pieters
Mrs. Albertus Pieters, Oita.
Mrs. H. V. S. Peeke, Saga.
Mrs. Anthony Walvoord, Nagasaki.
Mrs. S. W. Ryder, Kurume.

ON FURLOUGH

Mrs. E. S. Booth
Mrs. W. E. Hoffsommer
Mrs. W. G. Hoekje

Mrs. Martha B. Norris,
Dobbs Ferry, N. Y.,
Foreign Corresponding Secretary for Japan.

NORTH JAPAN MISSION

YOKOHAMA

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FERRIS SEMINARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915

(Established 1870)

THE STAFF.—Rev. Eugene S. Booth, Principal; Mrs. E. S. Booth, Assistant Principal.

Miss Julia Moulton, Miss Jennie M. Kuyper, Miss Janet Oltmans, Miss Kate M. Foster.

Rev. P. T. Iwasa, Headmaster. Mr. I. Kawakami, Mr. J. Terada, Mr. T. Kusakabe, Mr. K. Iijima, Mr. S. Hayashi, Miss S. Hayashi, Miss M. Sano, Mrs. C. Shimada, Miss F. Watanabe, Miss T. Kawamura, Miss F. Hirose and Mrs. H. Hisauchi.

At the forty-fifth annual commencement, held March 30, 1915, there were seventeen graduates, as follows: Two from the Bible Course; one, Miss Ogawa, was located by the Mission in Tokyo; the other, Miss Wada, was sent to Matsumoto to assist Mrs. Wyckoff; one from the English Normal, a promising student, who entered the Middle Class of the Higher Department; fourteen from the Honka, or Grammar Department, five of whom entered the Junior Class of the Higher Department.

One pupil received a certificate for proficiency in drawing; two for proficiency in calisthenics, and five in sewing. Thirty-eight pupils secured the Junior Tonic Sol-fa certificate, and twenty the Elementary certificate.

Governor Ishihara and his Secretary honored the occasion, and His Excellency distributed the certificates to the graduates, and urged them to make good use of the advantages they had enjoyed in this school, and in after life to follow the excellent precepts that had been inculcated.

The number of new pupils entered this year is sixty-six. The total number enrolled was two hundred and twenty-three. The present number is two hundred and twelve, distributed as follows: Prep., 43; Grammar Dept., 140; Eng. Normal, 19; Higher Dept., 10.

A healthy spiritual condition has been evinced throughout the year. Sixteen pupils have received baptism, which, together with the thirty-seven other Christians, makes fifty-three, or 25 per cent of the pupils are striving to serve our Master.

DINING-ROOM OF FERRIS SEMINARY.

CHANGES IN THE STAFF.—In July Miss Dick and Miss McCloy retired. In September Miss Moulton returned from furlough, and Miss Janet Oltmans joined the staff. Mr. Hoshiai retired early in the year and Mr. Kawakami has taken his place. In July Miss Inouye and Miss Isobe retired, and Miss Hirose, a graduate of some years ago, has taken the place of the latter, and Mrs. Hisauchi, also a graduate of several years ago, has taken the place of the former.

Miss Sada Hayashi graduated from this school in 1894, and has taught here ever since. Twenty-one years of faithful service, without a holiday. When this fact came to the knowledge of an American gentleman and his wife, who were visiting the school, they very generously placed at the disposal of the school a sum equal to a year's salary, with the understanding that Miss Hayashi be given a Sabbatical year. It was, indeed, a beautiful recognition of long and faithful service, which it is a pleasure to record. Miss Hayashi is now in a quandary to know in what way to spend her respite from school duties to the greatest advantage. We trust she will be led to do what is wisest and best. She came very near a physical breakdown last spring, so that the opportunity for a rest and change is most opportune.

The event of the year was the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on the throne of His Imperial Ancestors, on November 10th, a function, in which every subject of the Empire took part. The schools throughout the country were given a holiday. Our school assembled in Van Schaick Hall at two in the afternoon and held a service, consisting of hymns, reading the Scriptures, prayer, address by the Principal, an original poem by a member of the staff, singing the Enthronement Anthem, and at precisely 3.30 o'clock all shouted "Banzai" three times in succession. On the platform were two Sakaki trees, *Cleyera japonica*, sacred tree of the Shinto, decorated with streamers of the Japanese conventional five colors, symbolizing light, and the paper "Go-hei," symbolizing righteousness, which had been presented to the school by one of the local newspapers. The Sakaki tree is the symbol of purity, as its leaves are used in the ceremonial purification of the Emperor, before he enters the Imperial Mausoleum at Ise. These symbols of Purity, Light and Righteousness constantly recur in the elaborate ritual during the enthronement ceremonies. In fact, the Shinto ritualists were busy from the early spring, when the rice fields where the rice used at the function should be grown were chosen by divination, and the silk culturists were chosen, and all participating in the culture of the rice and the production of the silk, to the weaving and making of the royal garments, were ceremonially purified, and specially guarded. Indeed, for a month before the appointed time for the enthronement every city village and hamlet throughout the country ordered their inhabitants to clean house from cellar to garret.

The Principal took for his theme "The significance of the enthronement ceremonies," and attempted to show that behind all the symbolism there was a fundamental and universal truth, the acknowledgment of a great need on the part of all from the lowest to the highest

in the empire, pure, enlightened and righteous character, and that the nation's true greatness depended upon all its people attaining to such a character, which could only be secured by fidelity on the part of each individual to Jesus Christ, in whom alone all these qualities unite, and by which the Holy Spirit can be made vital and effective in human lives. The service was truly an impressive one. Our prayer is that the Japanese people may speedily realize that pure, enlightened and righteous character, which is acceptable to Almighty God, the Father of us all.

The great event of the year for the School and Mission was the arrival, on October 19th, of Dr. and Mrs. Wm. I. Chamberlain and Dr. and Mrs. W. Bancroft Hill, representing the home boards. They brought us inspiration and encouragement. While their stay was all too short, they were able to give us two days before entering upon their itinerary through the several fields. They were able to see something of Yokohama, visit Kamakura, attend two receptions, one to meet our friends of the community, and the other with the teachers and pupils of the school, at which, after a short program of music and recitations, the Principal introduced the Deputation, and one of the pupils gave an address of welcome on behalf of the pupils, and Mr. Iwasa gave an address in excellent English. The members of the Deputation responded with inspiring addresses. The visit of the Deputation to Japan was appropriately and profitably concluded in Japan on the 28th and 30th of November by a communion service and two days' conference, with the North and South Japan Missions at Shimonoseki, Miss Kuyper and Mr. Booth being among the delegates from the North Japan Mission to this conference. May the inspiration given and received bear golden fruits on the field, and ultimately lead the home churches to realize, as they have never done before, the magnitude of the task the Boards have laid upon them in the providence of God, and become fully persuaded of their ability to place the Boards in position to fully meet the growing needs of the fields.

While deeply regretting that the funds for building the gymnasium could not have been raised before Mr. and Mrs. Booth leave for their furlough, the report should not close without recognition of the heroic efforts made by the Committee representing the alumnae, and the grateful acknowledgment of the 1,500.00 yen now in hand from that source. May we hear from those who believe that a healthy and well developed body is the best instrument for a normal and well developed mind, and may wish to help in producing these conditions for the pupils of Ferris Seminary. When the calisthenium materializes our equipment will be, for the first time in our history of forty-five years, approximately complete, and we shall be better able than ever before to keep a judicious balance in the physical, intellectual and spiritual training we are endeavoring to give our pupils.

We are very happy to acknowledge a generous gift of twenty-five copies each of a series of School Readers and Drawing Books, etc., by Mr. W. J. Gage, a publisher of Toronto, made to the school through Miss Moulton. Mr. Gage visited the school some years ago, and this is the second gift of the kind he has made in appreciation of the work

he saw the school was trying to do. We are very glad to have these excellent Canadian readers, for the variety they afford the pupils.

Thankful for the many blessings of the year past, for the substantial evidences of the continued interest in our work by the Boards and the Churches, for the earnest and faithful efforts of both pupils and teachers, and for the privilege of seeing the dawning of a new hope in the minds and hearts of many of our pupils, this report is very respectfully submitted.

EUGENE S. BOOTH.

MISS KUYPER'S REPORT

The organized Christian activities of the school continue to be carried on as heretofore through the Y. W. C. A.

The weekly Thursday afternoon prayer-meeting has met regularly. Once a month this is in charge of the pastor of the Kaigan Church, who here finds opportunity to give a pastoral talk to the girls. Every other week the girls are divided into groups of eight or nine; these groups, each in charge of an older Christian girl, meet in separate rooms for prayer. This has had good results in bringing them closer together and in rousing in the older girls a deeper interest and sense of responsibility for the younger ones.

The Christian Association Week of Prayer in November was observed in daily prayer-meetings after school hours. There was a good attendance and an earnest spirit was manifest.

At the national Y. W. C. A. Summer Conference five attended as full delegates and several others a part of the time, and at their own charges. The reports of the delegates at the Thursday afternoon prayer-meeting were full of enthusiasm and gave expression to purposes of deeper consecration. The money for these delegates' expenses was all raised by the girls themselves—largely the proceeds from the sale of articles they had made.

The six neighborhood Sunday-schools have been carried on as heretofore. There is an average attendance of over two hundred. We have held a weekly Sunday-school teachers' meeting for the study of the Sunday-school lesson and for planning in the interest of these schools. For our mutual benefit in this work at each meeting one of the Sunday-school teachers gave a five-minute talk on "How I Can Improve My Sunday-school." Some excellent suggestions of value to all were given. In one of these Sunday-school neighborhoods a woman's meeting has been opened by my helper, Miss Hirose, which gives promise of much good. She also makes weekly visits to one of the smaller hospitals in the city.

The Japanese newspaper of Yokohama, the "Boeki Shimbun," this year again carries on its charitable work of giving at New Year's time a generous donation of "mochi," which is the special food for the new year, to all the poor of the city. This is done in a very systematic way. A complete list of all the poor is obtained from the city office. Tickets entitling the bearer to receive this "mochi" at a specified time and place are distributed among the needy. From this newspaper

office requests were made to all the girls' schools in Yokohama to send nine girls each to distribute tickets. Thus also a representation of nine girls went from our school to assist in this. The extreme poverty, distress and suffering they saw made a deep impression on them; a condition such as they said they would not have believed existed had they not seen it with their own eyes and they realized how much they had to be thankful for. Those who had also gone on the same mission last year said the conditions this year were somewhat improved, but were still serious. Tracts they found practically useless as very few of them could read. We feel that this newspaper has done more than relieve distress by giving to our girls, as well as to the others, an insight into the misery and need of their own people, which we trust will be to them a very earnest call to active Christian service.

Sundays are rather full days; besides attendance at two church services, I have had three Bible classes. A young men's Bible class held in connection with the Kaigan Church Sunday-school has been fairly well attended, but very little spiritual interest has been manifest. The attendance at a class for some of our former pupils still living in the city has been very irregular and therefore somewhat discouraging. A Bible class for the Japanese lady teachers in the school has been all the more inspiring. The results of their study were encouragingly shown at the end of the year in the excellent short talks they gave on previously assigned subjects in connection with the course studied.

A never-to-be-forgotten service was the baptismal and communion service at the Kaigan Church on Sunday, November 7th, when sixty-two (57 adults and 5 children) received baptism; among these were nine of our girls; five more received baptism the next Sunday at other Churches. It was a day of rejoicing and a tremendously earnest call to put forth greater efforts for the upbuilding as well as to upbringing of souls into the Kingdom, a call for maintaining, and not for retrenching in our work.

The privilege of being one of the delegates of our mission at the Union Conference of the Missions with the Deputation held at Shimonoseki gave me opportunity on my return trip to visit three girls' mission schools of other denominations. This was full of interest and gave me a deepened appreciation of what our own school is doing, as well as showing along what lines others are doing effective work.

JENNIE M. KUYPER.

MISS JANET OLTMANS' REPORT

I have been asked to give my impressions of Ferris Seminary, since this is my first year in the school. My impressions are now three months old, but even then, they are fresh enough in my mind to be new ones.

For some time previous to my entering into teaching at Ferris Seminary, I had been looking forward to it, for the most part, with pleasure, but some times, I must confess, with a little dread. I had little idea how Japanese girls conducted themselves as pupils, and I had as vague an idea how to conduct myself before them. I felt more

like a pupil myself, because there would be so much that I would have to learn, to teach them. How I wished the first week or two were over! And still when I did begin my teaching, I found it not nearly as trying as I had expected it to be. How could I ever have thought that all Japanese girls looked and acted alike? I find it quite as interesting to study the little differences in their manners and speech as the teaching itself.

Then each class has a certain esprit de corps, which makes it interesting to view each class as a collective body. There seems to be a strong class feeling. Although girls of different classes mingle freely and are on friendly terms with each other, still they like to clique together as class groups. Of course, this is quite natural, as girls of the same class have mutual interests, which are quite enough to draw them together.

It is very interesting to watch the girls when they are outside of class. During the noon hour they walk about the garden. The younger girls often play games and run about on the lawn, while the older ones cluster together in a sunny corner or walk up and down the paths in groups.

In the classroom I find the girls attentive, interested in their lessons and ready to respond. There are differences, of course. How easy it is to tell which is eager and ready to answer questions, and which will have to be coaxed to do so! Still they all seem anxious to do well in English. It is so nice to have an appreciative class, and the very fact that they try makes the class work interesting. Having been here only a term I do not know the girls very well, but it seems to me they are docile, obedient and easily disciplined girls. The whole atmosphere of the school is one of pleasant activity and the routine of the school days runs in a cheerful, orderly way.

These are a few of my impressions which I hope will be lasting ones. And I know I shall always look back upon my first few weeks at Ferris Seminary with the most pleasant remembrance.

C. Janet Oltmans.

AOMORI

During the year we have continued our five neighborhood Sunday-schools—two in the city of Aomori and three in neighboring villages. We are starting a school at Daishaka, a new village.

I have had nine stereopticon meetings in villages where the Gospel had not before been preached. My former dwelling opened on the street, and during the spring and summer we threw open the doors in the evenings, and held meetings in the house. A number gave in their names as inquirers. The "new house" was all completed by November 1st, and I moved in on that day. I consider it an honor that my very first guests were Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlain.

Once more I wish to send my sincere thanks to all the kind donors who have helped to build this cosy little house. Now, when I return from the villages, tired and cold, there is a comfortable little home to

MISS WINN'S HOUSE.

ONE OF MISS WINN'S SCHOOLS.

come to. Only those of us who have lived for years in cold, cheerless native houses, can fully appreciate the comforts of such a home, so God bless and reward you! When the house was completed we gave an evening to the carpenters, masons, painters, etc. Thirty-five came. We gave them each a New Testament, and served tea and cake. It was a social gathering long to be remembered.

A number of young men have come to me for English Bibles; among them is a Mr. Yamamoto, a teacher in one of the largest public schools in the city. Just before Christmas he surprised me by requesting me to come to his school and speak to his class of boys. He said, "Tell them about Jesus Christ and about how you celebrate Christmas in your country." He assured me that the principal had given his consent. I spoke to over a hundred boys about the ages of twelve and thirteen—just the impressionable age. I felt it a wonderful opportunity. Such opportunities are coming to us constantly these days. It is a cause for gratitude to see the walls of prejudice come down. God grant that we may be able to meet these many opportunities. We enter upon the new year with hope and courage, praying that ere long the Gospel may reach every village and hamlet of this Empire.

M. Leila Winn.

MATSUMOTO

In spite of much which has been discouraging, Mrs. Wyckoff has continued to sow the seed, which will one day have fruit. She writes that her work is the same as last year. She has had three monthly woman's meetings,at Nagano, Kama sua and Ina. She also has a weekly meeting at Matsumoto. On Mondays she has two classes of girls and four classes of young men, one of whom is an inquirer. She has also gained entrance into the government schools of the city, and has spoken to the pupils, and entertained them with her Victrola. Several Sunday-schools are carried on in Matsumoto and neighboring towns.

Mrs. Wyckoff's helper has been ill a great deal, and this has been a great handicap, but we trust better times are coming. "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Mrs. M. N. Wyckoff.

SOUTH JAPAN MISSION

SHINONOSEKI

REPORT OF THE BAIKO JO GAKUIN (STURGES SEMINARY) FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915

The year 1915, the second year of the New Union School at Shimonoseki, has come to its close. It has had its disappointments and its trials, but we feel that, on the whole, we have great reason to thank God for the many blessings it has contained and to enter the new year with courage and strength. Although there has been serious illness among the members of the faculty, and the head teacher resigned because of ill-health, death has not entered our ranks, and the health of the students has been unusually good. The present faculty, in addition to the four foreign ladies, consists of twelve Japanese teachers, five men and seven women. Of these eight are professing Christians and two are studying the Bible with a view to receiving baptism.

We entered the year with 95—we close with 130—98 in the regular course. Fifteen united with the Church on confession of their faith, four having been baptized in childhood. This brings our present number of Christians up to 56—41 of whom are in the dormitory. This is, of course, not our ideal number, but we feel grateful that there are so many. Miss Hironaka has been greatly used of God in bringing about a deeper spiritual life among the students and we look forward to the new year with anticipation of still greater blessings.

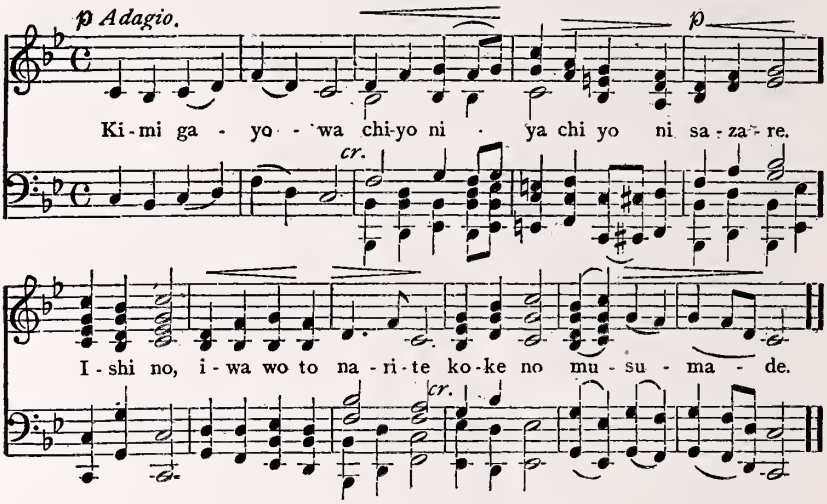
The school is gradually conquering the prejudice of the community and making its own reputation. The parents' meetings add greatly toward this end. Fathers and mothers, or older brothers, come and discuss those things which are of interest to the school and to the education of their daughters and sisters. There are addresses by the teachers and a general exchange of ideas, after which a few girls furnish some music, while others serve tea and cakes. The change in the attitude of the local press, this year, was noticeable. Articles favorable to the school appeared at the beginning of the school year, and undoubtedly assisted in giving us a good entering class.

The school is always known as a distinctly Christian school. At the beginning of the school year, the principal, in his opening remarks, impresses upon the new students the fact that the purpose of this school is to produce intelligent women of good Christian character. Several notable speakers also have, during this year, addressed the students on this subject, and pointed out this difference between Mission and Government schools.

In March a class of seven was graduated, all former students of Sturges Seminary in Nagasaki, and all Christians. Two are assisting in the Sunday-school work in the Oita and Kagoshima stations. One

UNION SCHOOL AT SHIMONOSEKI.

Kimi Ga Yo



JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

was graduated from the special course. Although she was a Christian at heart, she could not obtain her parents' consent to openly confessing her faith. We understand that since her marriage she has had this joy.

Since many of the day pupils could not attend the C. E. Society on Sunday, the time of the meetings was changed to Monday morning directly at the close of lessons. The increased attendance and growing interest give evidence of the wisdom of this choice.

On November 10th the long looked for Coronation of His Majesty the Emperor took place and Sturges Seminary also held appropriate exercises and planted a beautiful Sago palm as a Commemoration tree. One hundred and thirty-nine trees of various kinds, the gift of a Christian friend, head of the Forestry Department of Korea, whose daughter is in attendance at our school, were also planted as Commemoration trees. This gift, and others of like nature, although not so extensive, greatly assist in beautifying the grounds.

The growth of the Music Department made another piano a necessity and a very good one was obtained at a moderate cost. This is a great pleasure and enables several more students to avail themselves of piano instruction.

The year 1915 will long be memorable because of the visits of the two Deputations. Dr. Speer and party of the Presbyterian Board made us a short visit in June, and our own Deputation, consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, and Dr. and Mrs. Hill, were with us in November. They were four happy days of fellowship and inspiration, which will not be forgotten. We felt their deep and sincere sympathy with all that concerned the school. Mrs. Chamberlain completely won the hearts of the boarding pupils by her address on Sunday evening. She inspired them to be nobler women, courageous in everything that was high, pure, true, honorable, lovely and of good report. As we bade them farewell and saw their steamer recede in the darkness, we felt that we were saying farewell not to the Deputation, but to dear friends —friends, indeed, who will bind us and the school more closely to our home churches and the Boards than ever before.

The crowning event of the year is Christmas. A Christmas Cantata formed a large part of the programme this year, and the entire entertainment was pronounced by a Missionary of twenty-five years' experience, as the best he had ever seen in Japan; dignified, intelligible and well executed—the honor of which is due in large part to Miss Noordhoff and her excellent training of the chorus week by week. The number of guests was greater than last year and, owing to the inadequate chapel accommodations, which we have, two classes of girls were obliged to leave their places and make room for the guests. One, a man of middle age, was so interested in the programme that he kept a lady near him busy explaining the various characters in the Cantata. He seemed very much interested and impressed with the Christmas story. To many of the guests and students this was their first Christmas.

For some years there has been a feeling on the part of some that the students should be taught the importance of giving of their own at Christmas time to those less fortunate than themselves. This year it was again suggested and the Principal, looking favorably upon it,

addressed the girls on the subject early in the week. On Christmas eve he told the audience about the poor in Christ's own country and proposed presenting at this time our gifts to the Christ whose birth we had celebrated, through an offering for the needy ones in Palestine. Four girls then passed prettily decorated baskets through the audience and to the surprise and joy of all $38.00 was received.

The Sunday-school conducted by Miss Noordhoff and her helper and one or two of the girls, has flourished in spite of many hindrances and trials. On an average sixty attend each Sunday. The Christmas was well attended, 100 being present.

As we look back over the year and see a little improvement here and there; see girls who are sincerely making an effort to live the Master's life and being victorious through Him; see others definitely take their stand under His banner, although they know it will not be an easy way to travel after they leave school; we take heart and thank Him that we may have some share, however small, in this great work of His Kingdom.

JENNIE A. PIETERS,
JEANE NOORDHOFF.

NAGASAKI

The work of the year has largely been a continuation of that begun in 1914. It has always been a source of gratitude that the relation between our church in Nagasaki and the resident missionaries has been so cordial, and we are especially thankful that since taking up evangelistic work this cordiality has continued.

Last year when we began our work the church was without a pastor, and the special opportunity thus given us to work among the women has not been lessened by the coming of the new pastor and his wife, who arrived near the close of last year.

We rejoice to see among the church members a growing desire for the salvation of others. In the bi-weekly Woman's Meeting of the church, which is held in the homes of the members, it is a joy to see the freedom and earnestness manifested by the women.

On Easter Sunday fourteen applicants were received into the church, and on the Sunday following Christmas, thirty-seven. Only a very few of these can possibly be regarded as results of our individual work. A large number were Steele Academy students, and nearly all of the rest may be called fruits of the work of the church, which, although now independent, was established by our Mission.

Miss Tomegawa has continued her work with me, although for reasons of health she was given a prolonged vacation in the summer, the results of which were very satisfactory. Miss Tachino, who graduated this year from Sturges Seminary, came to help us in May, and has given valuable assistance in the Sunday-schools and in sending out our little monthly paper.

The three Sunday-schools have been kept up during the year. The oldest had a total enrollment of 86, with an average attendance of 33;

the next, enrollment 70, average 22, and the youngest 71 enrolled, with an average of 17. The low average is easily accounted for by lack of room, lack of teachers, and the class of children which attend. To this must be added the activity of the Buddhists in Sunday-school work in this city, and the fact that almost all the children who come are subjected to ridicule. The children of two of these schools met together for their Christmas exercises in our church. We gave out 130 bags of cake, twenty more than last year. Each child regularly enrolled received a small gift, varying with the degree of regularity of attendance. Two children had not been absent once and, of course, received the nicest gifts. Two days later the other school, which is held across the bay, in the home of a Christian, had its celebration, and twenty-five children were present. There were two in this school also who had not missed one meeting. Our thanks, as well as those of the children, are due to the members of the Sewing Guild for their generosity in providing the gifts.

In one home the bi-weekly Woman's Bible Class, led by Miss Tomegawa, has been well attended, and the Sturges Alumnae have continued to hold their meetings here. Considerable time has been spent in calling, and regular instruction has been given in the homes of some women, while others have come to us. Some teaching of English has been done on condition that this be followed by a Bible lesson. One such pupil who began shortly before summer with, as far as we know, only a desire for English, will probably be baptized in the Spring.

Since April I have been going once a month to Sasebo to attend the Woman's Meeting there. This is a Naval Station, and as the wives of the Naval Officers are usually intelligent, and often have much leisure time, the opportunity for woman's work is large. The December meeting was held in the beautiful new church, which was made possible by the gift of friends in America. Several former pupils of Sturges live in Sasebo and I always look forward to meeting them. One of these, a professing Christian with a non-Christian husband, never comes to the Sunday services, but rarely misses coming to hear me when I speak, and almost always comes to the station to see me off. And this, I feel sure, is not simply love for me, individually; it is because I am a link between her and the school where she spent so many happy days long ago.

Miss Mizota, the Sturges graduate, who entered the Bible Training School of the Woman's Union Missionary Society in Yokohama last year, seems to be making good progress and to be developing spiritually. This year another former pupil entered the same school, but she is not receiving assistance from our Mission.

At the close of last year I wrote of our little monthly paper, then only three months old. Its growth has been in fair proportion to its age. In December, 1914, we sent out a little over 400 copies and in December, 1915, about 800. The total expense for the year was Yen 153.95½ ($76.48), of which we have received Yen 47.33½ (a little less than one-third) from 95 of those to whom the paper is sent. These contributions mean to us far more than the money value, for we believe they stand, in most instances, for a grateful interest in what we are, by

God's help, trying to do through the paper. We have also had, especially toward the close of the year, many kind letters of appreciation. While it was intended primarily for girls and women, we have found many men as well, interested in it. An uncle of Miss Tomegawa, living in Tokyo, himself not a Christian, asked to have several copies sent to him that he might give them to his friends. A former Sturges sewing teacher to whom the paper had regularly gone, died last autumn, but her husband wrote asking us please to continue to send it to him. In a recent letter of thanks from a reader were the words, "The whole family, including my husband, enjoy it."

In Moji one woman, who at first had no interest in Christianity, has become an inquirer through reading the paper. Many write us of passing their copy on to others to read.

We have had many causes for gratitude during this year, and among them the visit of the Deputation with the pleasure and inspiration it brought, will not soon be forgotten.

The year's work has not been done as ideally as we hoped when the year was young, but we leave it with Him whose power is great enough to use our weakness; and with faith and trust in Him, enter another year of opportunity.

SARA M. COUCH.

KAGOSHIMA

The past year has been one of great changes. At the beginning of the year we had three assistants, Bible women, as we call them, and we all looked forward to a year of working together for the Master, and hoped to accomplish great things. Early in January one of the women was taken ill with typhoid fever, and went to the hospital for treatment. She was ill for weeks, yes, months, and as it was thought she would recuperate much faster if she went to her home, in July she returned to Yokohama. We were sorry to part with her. Then in April another helper was married, and went to a Southern Island to live. She married a minister, a fine Christian worker, and we know they are doing a grand work, but we miss her. We have been trying to find two new helpers, but have not been able to. Somehow Bible women are scarce. So, from March we have had only one helper, and have not accomplished all we had planned to do. The opportunities have been many, and we have tried to do a little—have tried to seize some of them. We continue to hold our Sunday-school in three sessions, the highest attendance has been 303; the Tuesday School 80, and the Thursday School 175. We are so short of teachers that we cannot do justice to this work. Many of the classes are too large. We continue to hold our semi-monthly meeting for women. Our highest attendance at this meeting has been twenty. We have access to more than thirty homes, and many of these women are being regularly instructed in God's Word. We usually do our calling in the mornings, as the women seem to have more leisure then.

I have had some sixty young men, mostly students, come to me for Bible Study. Some come once, and some twice a week. These Bible Classes are held in the afternoon or evenings, according to the convenience of the young men, and when I can teach them. Some months I have had as many as forty Bible Classes. I have had quite a number of individual classes, and somehow I like them the best. About the 1st of November some college students called on me. There were five of them. One was a graduate of a High School in this city, and I had met him before. He had been to the house two or three times to sing English songs, and seemed to be very much opposed to Christianity. I supposed they had come to practice their English, and after we had talked about various things, this young man asked if I would please talk to them about Christianity. He said that while he was a student of the High School he could not be a Christian, but now he could do as he pleased, and he desired to be a Christian. One of the other students said that he had studied Buddhism and it did not satisfy him. He also wished to be a Christian. Six of these young men are coming once a week for Bible study. During the year three young men have turned to the Lord. One has received baptism, and I am praying that all who hear the Word will turn to God.

Our work at the Factory Boarding House has been kept up all through the year. We are only able to hold a monthly meeting there, and so do not come in very close touch with the girls. There have been sixty girls in the boarding house, but now, owing to the scarcity of thread, there are only forty. They always give us a warm welcome, but as yet have not come out on the Lord's side. On Christmas they all came up for their Annual Christmas Entertainment and seemed to enjoy it.

This report would not be complete if I did not tell you about our Sunday-school Christmas gathering. About 320 children and some twenty adults gathered here on Christmas afternoon. Our Sunday-school room was packed. The children had an interesting program, and all seemed to enjoy it. We had the three schools together, as the attendance the latter part of the year had fallen off considerably, but we found that our place was too small for such a crowd, as we should like to invite the parents to come.

We all enjoyed the visit of the Deputation, but it was too short for us. We hope the next Deputation will plan to stay longer in Japan. We are thankful for the work we have been able to do, but desire to do greater and better work in the year to come. We are praying for reinforcements. We have a place for six young women, and we hope that number will soon come. May your prayers unite with ours, that God's richest blessing will be with us.

HARRIET M. LANSING.